

Executive Registry

88-0443X

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 11, 1988

OCA FILE

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Thank you for the letter sent by you and your colleagues in the leadership concerning U.S. assistance to the Nicaraguan Democratic Resistance.

I had noted earlier reports that you plan to introduce an alternative package, and it is significant that you recognize the urgency of acting upon further aid to the Resistance. As you are aware, on February 29, 1988, all authority to deliver aid to the Resistance will terminate. Without immediate action by the Congress, the freedom fighters will become recklessly exposed, and may soon have to make irreversible decisions about their own future. Even as I write this letter, we have reliable reports of new Soviet military shipments to Nicaragua.

As I said in my radio address last Saturday, I stand ready to work with the Congress on a bipartisan basis to develop a package that does not result in surrender or abandonment of the freedom fighters. It is important for us now to face together hard truths and make stark choices. A strong and viable Resistance remains essential if democracy is to have a chance in Nicaragua.

Therefore, the outlines of an acceptable package must provide sufficient aid to sustain the freedom fighters in order to maintain those pressures that have moved the peace process forward.

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I look forward to hearing the details of your aid package which I trust is being developed on an urgent basis. With your proposals in hand, I can assure you of our prompt response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ronald Reagan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "R".

The Honorable Jim Wright
Speaker of the
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515